

[4 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

1	2	3	4
12	Orissa	5	745.610
13	Pondicherry	1	346.000
14	Punjab	4	252.000
15	Rajasthan	3	89.230
16	Tamil Nadu	25	1300.571
17	Uttaranchal	3	468.200
18	Uttar Pradesh	8	133.830
19	West Bengal	7	170.260
TOTAL:		234	33807.826

**Conversion of barren land into fertile land**

3215. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that chemical manure has converted the fertile land into a barren land in the States;

(b) if so, the details of fertile land so affected during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to convert the barren land into fertile land for more agriculture produce; and

(d) the details of other steps being taken by Government to convert such barren land into fertile land again and making farmers aware about excessive use of chemical fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The average fertilizer consumption is about 104.50 kilogram per hectare which is much lower than even the neighbouring countries. This level of consumption is not likely to have any adverse effect on the fertility of soil. However, inadequate and imbalanced

use of chemical fertilizers and neglect of organic manures may affect the soil health including the deficiency of secondary and micro nutrients and may affect the physico-chemical and biological properties of the soil. As such, there are no accounts of large scale degradation of soil health and crop productivity in the country due to use of chemical fertilizers.

(c) and (d) Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Projects for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP), (viii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and (ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of degraded lands including barren lands in the country. Under these programmes, since inception upto Tenth Five Year Plan, an area of about 50.83 million ha. of degraded lands have been developed. Parts of such developed lands are also brought under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses apart from increasing productivity of the degraded lands.

To overcome the ill-effects of imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers, the Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), which advocates soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers. Government is also promoting organic farming by advocating use of organic sources of nutrients like farm yard manure, compost, green manure; vermi compost bio-fertilizers, etc. for improving the soil health and its fertility.

### **Production and consumption of pulses**

3216. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and consumption of pulses in the country during the year;

(b) whether the domestic production is sufficient to meet the requirements; and